

Surah 1 Surah Faatiha

THE OPENING CHAPTER

SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

Surah Faatiha, the first *Surah* of the Qur'aan has many names. The most common name is "Ummul Qur'aan" (The Essence of the Qur'aan). It has been given this name because it contains the essence of the detailed subject matter found in all the other *Surahs*. It is also commonly referred to as *Surah Faatiha*, meaning "The Opening Chapter". Two discussions of the *Surah* follow.

THE FIRST DISCUSSION: Maulana Shabbier Ahmed Uthmaani (A.R) has written that the entire Qur'aan consists of six central themes, viz. (1) Towheed (the Oneness of Allaah), (2) Risaalah [i.e. the prophethood of Rasoolullah ﷺ], (3) Laws, (4) Qiyaamah, (5) the Mu'mineen, and (6) the Kuffaar. *Surah Faatiha* contains all these themes in a nutshell.

- **"Al Hamdu Lillahi Rabbil Aaalameen. Ar Rahmanir Raheem"** reflects the theme of Towheed.
- **"Maaliki Yowmid Deen"** foretells Qiyaamah.
- **"Iyyaka Na'budu wa Iyyaka nas Ta'een"** refers to Allaah's laws because it speaks of Allaah's worship, which includes all His laws and commands. **"Siraatal Mustaqeem** (The straight path)" also refers to all Allaah's commands in the Shari'ah.
- **"Siraatal Ladheena An'amta alayhim,"** includes Risaalah because among those on whom Allaah has bestowed His favors are the Ambiyaa. Allaah says in verse 69 of *Surah Nisaa*, **"Those who obey Allaah and the Rasool will be with those Ambiyaa, Siddeeqeen, martyrs and righteous ones on whom Allaah has bestowed His bounties. These are indeed the best of companions."** This verse also refers to the Mu'mineen.
- **"Ghayril Maghdoobi Alayhim wa Lad Daalleen."** This verse makes reference to the Kuffaar.

THE SECOND DISCUSSION: In the book titled *Mawaahibur Rahman* (Vol.1 Pg.3), Maulana Husain (A.R) quotes the following from Imaam Rabbani (A.R), who transmits it from Ali (رضي الله عنه). He says that the knowledge of the universe and that of the Qur'aan is found in *Surah Faatiha*. This is so because, based on themes the Qur'aan is divided into four parts, each of which begin with the words "Al'hamdu Lillaah" ("All praises are for Allaah").

The first part begins with Surah Faatiha and ends with the *Surah Ma'idah*. This part mainly discusses the concept of Allaah being the Sole and Only Creator of everything. The second para begins with *Surah An'aam* and extends until the end of *Surah Bani Israa'eel*. The central theme of this part is that Allaah is the Only One Who is respo

سُبْحَانَكَ يَا فَاتِحَتِ الْمَلَكُوتِ وَهِيَ سَبْعُ آيَاتٍ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ١

In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ٢

1. All praise belongs to Allaah, the Rabb (the Cherisher, the Creator, the Sustainer) of the universe (and whatever it contains)...

الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ٣

2. Who is the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful...

مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ٤

3. ...and Master of (all affairs on) the Day of Recompense (the Day of Qiyaamah, when resurrection, accountability, rewards and punishment will take place).

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ٥

4. You Alone do we worship, and You Alone do we ask for help.

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ٦

5. Guide us to the straight path (the path of Islam);

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ ٧

6. the path of those whom You have favored (by guiding them aright)...

غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ٨

7. ...and not the path of those with whom You are angry (the Jews), nor the path of those who have gone astray (the Christians).

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